

Press Release

Kristjan Järvi and Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation announce new Baltic Sea Philharmonic

- **New orchestra based on principles and ideals of Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic (BYP)**
- **Inaugural ‘Baltic Sea Landscapes’ tour in April 2016**
- **Concert tour dedicated to the environment of Baltic Sea region**

Berlin, 14 December 2015. Kristjan Järvi and the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation have announced the formation of a new multinational orchestra, Baltic Sea Philharmonic, as a sister orchestra to Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic (BYP). Like BYP, the new ensemble brings together orchestral musicians from the ten countries of the Baltic Sea region – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The orchestra makes its debut in April 2016 with its ‘Baltic Sea Landscapes’ tour – dedicated to the environment of the Baltic Sea region – through Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Russia.

Baltic Sea Philharmonic emerges from the success of Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic

Baltic Sea Philharmonic is made up of current and former BYP players from across the region. The two orchestras share the same ambitions towards culture, society and the environment, upholding the principle that music can unite people of all nationalities and backgrounds and change society for the better, especially in a region that has historically been divided. In future, while BYP remains a high-level orchestra that trains musical and social skills in talented young performers and composers, Baltic Sea Philharmonic will be the more public-facing side of the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation, coming together several times a year to tour specific projects across Europe, and beyond.

The new orchestra is a natural evolution in BYP’s success story. Ever since its inception by the Usedom Music Festival and Nord Stream AG in 2008, BYP has had a phenomenal reception from players, audiences, and political leaders alike. It has toured the famous festivals and concert halls of Europe, including Berlin’s Philharmonie and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris. It has won international acclaim for its performances and its recent CD, ‘Baltic Sea Voyage’, and in 2015 the orchestra was awarded the European Cultural Prize in recognition of the enormous impact it has made on the culture of the region.

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Kristjan Järvi, Founding Conductor and Music Director, said of this development: 'Initially as an organisation we tried to highlight the cooperation between the countries of the Baltic Sea. We wanted to reflect this in a multinational orchestra made up of young people. The main goal was to make music together. We have now developed into a larger institution than we ever imagined, so we're launching a new orchestra in addition to our youth orchestra – the Baltic Sea Philharmonic. It will still be a young orchestra based on Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic, but former alumni can also apply. It has the same aspirations as BYP but is a more select group of people who want to pursue playing in a project orchestra that comes together several times a year for tours of the Baltic Sea region and beyond.'

'Baltic Sea Landscapes' April tour celebrates the environment

For its inaugural tour in April 2016, 'Baltic Sea Landscapes', Baltic Sea Philharmonic starts in the heart of the Baltic Sea region, in the sea ports of Klaipeda (Lithuania), Liepāja (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia), and then goes on to Helsinki (Finland) as well as St. Petersburg and Moscow (Russia). Repertoire reflects the organisation's championing of the environment, the sea, the nature and the landscapes, including Jean Sibelius's *Karelia Suite*, Arvo Pärt's *Swansong*, Stravinsky's *Firebird*, and Gediminas Gelgotas's *Mountains. Waters. (Freedom)*, as well as works by Prokofiev, whose 125th anniversary it will celebrate on 23 April with a concert in Moscow.

Kristjan Järvi explained the environmental theme: 'The tour takes us through a journey of Baltic Sea ports, bringing the environment into focus, with pieces that come from the area and are written by composers who are inspired by nature. It's music that makes you feel the Northern Lights, the ice, the cold wind, the forests, the incredible feeling when you jump into the lakes. The whole mentality and way of being of the region is formed by nature, which is why you have these great composers.'

In September 2016 the ensemble tours the 'Baltic Sea Discovery' programme across Central Europe. Repertoire takes the theme of the swan, with works by Pärt (*Swansong*) and Tchaikovsky (*Swan Lake*). Gidon Kremer and his Kremerata Baltica join the orchestra, with its players embedded in Baltic Sea Philharmonic for the whole tour, and Kremer performing Weinberg's Violin Concerto.

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Notes to editors:

'Baltic Sea Landscapes' Tour 2016

Programme 1

Friday, 15 April 2016, 6.00 pm, Klaipeda (Concert Hall), Lithuania
Saturday, 16 April 2016, 7.00 pm, Liepāja (Great Amber Concert Hall), Latvia
Monday, 18 April 2016, 7.00 pm, Tallinn (Estonia Concert Hall), Estonia
Tuesday, 19 April 2016, 7.00 pm, Helsinki (Music Centre), Finland
Thursday, 21 April 2016, 7.00 pm, St. Petersburg (Mariinsky Concert Hall), Russia
Saturday, 23 April 2016, 7.00 pm, Moscow (Tchaikovsky Concert Hall), Russia

Baltic Sea Philharmonic
Kristjan Järvi, conductor
Alexander Toradze, piano

Jean Sibelius: *Karelia Suite*, Op. 11 (Klaipeda, Liepāja, Tallinn, Helsinki only)
Sergei Prokofiev: Symphony No. 1 in D major *Classical*, Op. 25 (St. Petersburg, Moscow only)
Sergei Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No. 3 in C major, Op. 26
Arvo Pärt: *Swansong* (Littlemore Tractus) for orchestra
Gediminas Gelgotas: *Mountains. Waters. (Freedom)*
Igor Stravinsky: *The Firebird* (1945)

About the Baltic Sea Philharmonic

The Baltic Sea Philharmonic is the sister orchestra of the Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic (BYP) which was founded in 2008 as a joint initiative of the Usedom Music Festival and Nord Stream AG, who have continued to support the orchestra ever since. Both orchestras are run by the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation e. V.
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